Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 H-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /094 W

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P 272105Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7884

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 6476

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MRS PERON DELIVERS TWO SPEECHES

- 1. SUMMARY. MRS PERON DELIVERED TWO SPEECHES ON AUG 27 IN AM MANNER SOMEWHAT REMINISCENT OF THE TWO SPEECHES GIVEN BY HER HUSBAND ON JUNE 12. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT HER GOVERNMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY AND THAT SHE IS THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF PERON AND INTENDS TO CARRY OUT HIS DOCTRINE, AS SHE SEE IT, NO MATTER WHO FALLS BY THE WAY SIDE AND NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. END SUMMARY
- 2. ON MORNING AUG 27 MRS PERON DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS IN BUENOS AIRES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER SHE ADDRESSED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE BALCONY OF THE CASA ROSADA. THE WORKERS WERE FROM TWO UNIONS AND HAD GATHERED ALLEGEDLY TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS RECENT TAKEOVER OF GASOLINE RETAILING. THE CROWD, WHICH WAS ESTIMATED AS BEING IN THE HUNDRES OF THOUSANDS BY A TV COMMENTATOR, NUMBERED BETWEEN 3000 AND 5000 ACCORDING TO AN EMBOFF AND AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WHO WERE PRESENT.
- 3. IN THE SPEECHES MRS PERON EMPHASIZED THE CIVIL-MILITARY UNITY REPRESENTED IN THE SUPPORT HER GOVERNMENT ENJOYS FROM THE ARMED FORCES. SHE ALSO STRESSED HER ROLE AS THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF PERON AND THAT SHE INTENDED TO CARRY OUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS DOCTRINE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. SHE STATED THAT SOME

PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT A FRAIL WOMAN COULD NOT CARRY OUT THIS TASK, BUT THAT THEY WERE MISTAKEN; SHE HAD TWO STRONG HANDS, PERON AND EVITA, AND SHE WOULD SUCCEED.

4. COMMENT. THE TWO SPEECHES WERE OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF A REVITALIZED PRESIDENCY SUPPORTED BY THE MASSES. THE CROWD TURNOUT WAS NOT IMPRESSIVE, HOWEVER. THE FIRST SPEECH WAS DELIVERE IN A SHRILL ANIMATED MANNER. THE SECOND, TO THE LARGER GATHERING, WHEN VIEWED ON TELEVISION WAS MUCH MORE EMOTIONAL. IT WAS GIVEN IN A MANNER THAT CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS REMINISCENT (NO DOUBT INTENTIONALLY) OF EVITA PERON'S DELIVERY. THE SPEECHES MARK SOMEWHAT OF A COMING OUT FOR MRS PERON. SHE HAS APPARENTLY NOW BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE PRESIDENCY AND IS FOR THE FIRST TIME SPEAKING OUT IN A DEFINITIVE MANNER, WHETHER SHE CAN BACK UP HER WORDS AND GIVE HER GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY THE DIRECTION IT HAS LACKED IN RECENT MONTHS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. AT THE VERY LEAST, HOWEVER, HER SPEECHES AND SEVERAL OTHER RECENT MOVES ON HER PART SUGGEST THAT SHE KNOWS THE APPEARANCE OF DRIFT MUST END AND BE REPLACED BY AN IMPRESSION OF FIRM LEADERSHIP. HER REFERENCE TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY. MONTLLOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SPEECHES Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 27 AUG 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENIOS06476

Document Number: 1974BUENOS06476 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D740237-0224 From: BUENOS AIRES Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740816/aaaaanbj.tel

Line Count: 83

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION ARA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: martinml

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 05 SEP 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MRS PERON DELIVERS TWO SPEECHES

TAGS: PINT, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005